THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The development and promotion of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Government/Union Territory Administrations themselves. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides funds on the basis of project proposals received from the State Government/Union Territory Administrations for grant of central financial assistance every year under the following schemes:-

(i) Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits.

(ii) Fairs and festivals/Events

(iii) Information Technology

As per information received from the Government of Orissa, the Shamuka Beach Project near Puri has been identified for development through Orissa Tourism Development Corporation under the state Public Private Partnership (PPP) policy.

No proposal for central financial assistance to the project has been submitted by the Government of Orissa to the Ministry of Tourism

The Ministry of Tourism, has sanctioned Tourism projects to the tune of Rs.2327.05 lakh and Rs. 3022.80 lakh for the State of Orissa in the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively.

Potential of tourism around Andaman and Nicobar Islands

430. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that none of the potential for tourism in and around the sea, on the long coastal line, long stretch of forest cover on either side of the road, hundred of separate islands in and around Andaman and Nicobar Islands have not been fully exploited and there is not plan to do it;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government machinery both State and Central are moving slow and ineffective but finding reasons and justifications for their lapses;

(c) whether there will be a quick plan of action to do something concrete to exploit and make use of this potential; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The development and promotion of places of tourist interest is primarily undertaken by the State Governments themselves. However, Ministry of Tourism provides funds on the basis of projects prioritized in consultation with the State Governments under various schemes.

Development and promotion of places of tourist interest in the country including the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is a continuous process. The Ministry of Tourism has been promoting places of tourist interest including Andaman and Nicobar Islands through the electronic and print media, India tourism Offices in India and abroad and through its website.